

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—After Dark; or, London by Night.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—Miss Fanny Herring in "The Two Orphans."

FRENCH THEATRE, Fourteenth street and Sixth avenue.—Général de Bérault.

NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway.—The Bells of St. Mary.

THE OPERA HOUSE, corner of Fifth avenue and 22d street.—Chorus of Portiers—Les Batailles.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—Hemphy Dumpty.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—The Emerald Ring.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 12th street.—Two Can Play at That Game—Follies of a Night.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—Aladdin.

WOOD'S MUSEUM AND THEATRE, Thirtieth street and Broadway.—Afternoon and evening Performance.

BRANTON'S OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 14th street.—Lillian Minstrelsy, &c.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELTY, 72 Broadway.—Ethiopian Minstrelsy, Burlesque—Barnes & Co.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELTY, 65 Broadway.—Ethiopian Minstrelsy, Burlesque, Dances, &c.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 30 Bowery.—Comic Vocalists, Negro Minstrelsy, &c.

HIBERNIAN MINSTRELTY, Apollo Hall, corner of Broadway and 22d st.—Officiating at the Altar.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—Equestrian and Gymnastic Entertainment. Matinee at 2 1/2.

CENTRAL PARK GARDEN.—Theo. Thomas' Grand Promenade Concert.

COOPER INSTITUTE, Astor place.—John B. Gough's Lecture, "Temperance."

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—Hookey's Minstrelsy—"Santa Claus," &c.

HOOVER'S (E. D.) OPERA HOUSE, Williamsburg.—Hookey's Minstrelsy—"Santa Claus," &c.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 63 Broadway.—Science and Art.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, December 22, 1868.

THE NEWS.

Europe.

The cable telegrams are dated December 21. Intense excitement prevails at Constantinople and Athens. A Russian flag was burned in the streets of Constantinople yesterday. Robert Pacha's conduct at Syria is approved by the Sultan. The Ambassadors of the Western Powers decline protection to the Greek residents in Constantinople.

It is said that France and Austria will act in concert in regard to the Eastern difficulty.

The London Times of yesterday denounces President Johnson's repudiation proposition as conveyed in his annual message.

Nearly all the members of the new British Parliament who were honored with government positions have been re-elected.

There have been slight disturbances in some of the Spanish towns consequent on the elections.

The ministerial changes in the French government are attributed to the influence of the newspapers.

The Prussian Diet has adjourned for the holidays.

Paraguay.

By the Atlantic cable we have intelligence from Rio Janeiro to the 18th inst. There had been no fighting recently in Paraguay. General Argollo was advancing to invest Asuncion. Rear Admiral Davis, with his squadron, had gone up the Parana. He was accompanied by Minister McMahon.

Congress.

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Sumner presented a memorial from colored citizens in favor of striking out the word "white" from the naturalization laws. Mr. Sumner remarked that they were the only laws which contained the word. Two members were added to the Committee on the Pacific Railroad as members from the South. After the transaction of some further business of little importance the Senate adjourned until January 5.

In the House Mr. E. B. Washburn occupied the chair during the absence of Speaker Colfax. The introduction of bills was not permitted, and after receiving Mr. Van Wyck's report on the subject of whiskey frauds the House also adjourned until January 5.

Miscellaneous.

Secretary Seward has informed a firm in New York that the United States will not protect any United States vessel attempting to run the blockade in Hayti.

Advices from the Plains state that the expedition under Colonel Carpenter had returned to Fort Wallace. No evidence of Indians in the rear of General Sherman has been found.

The Peruvian transport Havana is not to be seized, Secretary McCulloch having instructed the Collector of the port of New Orleans that she is covered by her flag.

The Queen's Bench of Toronto have denied the petition for a new trial on the part of Whelan, convicted of the murder of D'Arcy McGee. He will now apply to the Court of Errors and Appeals.

We print in another column this morning the opinion of Judge Alvey, of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, in a certain bank case, in which he affirms the liability of a bank to pay in coin where coin is especially deposited.

Ernest Baruch, a German, residing in Elizabeth, N. J., quarrelled with his wife on Sunday afternoon, and on her making an outcry one Charles Tyrrell, living in the same house, came to her defence. He was, however, bested by both Baruch and his wife, and in the melee that ensued shot Baruch in the head with a revolver. Baruch's wound will probably prove fatal, and Tyrrell was arrested.

A despatch from Little Rock, Ark., says many prominent citizens have arrived in that city from Conway county, having been driven from their homes by the militia. Captain Gibson, commanding the militia at Lewisburg, gives quite a different version of the outrages committed in that place from the one published a day or two since. He says that Mr. Casey was murdered for his money by his partner, and that the store houses were set on fire by their owners, who then fled. General Upham reports from Augusta that a detachment of militia had an engagement with the insurgents, killing one man and capturing several prisoners, together with arms and horses. Refugees give terrible accounts of the proceedings of the militia.

A fire in Rochester on Saturday night destroyed property to the amount of \$100,000. Four firemen were severely injured by the falling of a ladder.

A large fire occurred in Saco, Me., on Sunday night, involving a loss of \$30,000.

Elsewhere this morning we publish an account of the opposition telegraph companies centering in this city. Also the text of Mr. E. B. Washburn's bill in the House for the construction of a government

telegraph under the direction of the Post Office Department.

Woman suffrage is being actively canvassed in Missouri. A memorial to Congress in its favor has been signed by over 2,000 persons.

The City.

The Congressional committee investigating the alleged election frauds in this city were in secret session in the United States Circuit Court room, in Chambers street, yesterday. Among the witnesses examined, it is said, were District Attorney Courtney and Marshal Murray.

In the Board of Aldermen yesterday a committee of seven to attend the inauguration of Governor Hoffman was appointed.

In the Board of Councilmen a committee of seven was also appointed to attend the inauguration. Several streets were ordered to be paved with Belgian pavement and several valuable "donations" were made.

The Aldermanic committee to hear the views of citizens relative to the proposed opening of Park place to North river held a meeting in the Aldermanic chamber yesterday. Petitions were presented from citizens favoring the project and from citizens protesting against it. Judge Vanderpoel and Mr. A. R. Lawrence addressed the committee on the subject. Mr. Vanderpoel in opposition to the project and Mr. Lawrence in favor of it, after which the committee adjourned until Thursday.

The Workingwomen's Central Association, with Miss Susan B. Anthony in the chair, met in room No. 18 Cooper Institute last night. The report from the special committee to investigate the case of a woman imprisoned in the Tombs on the charge of murder could not be made, as the chairman was absent, and the committee had found three women, and of one, all in custody for killing their husbands. Other reports relative to the condition of female ragpickers and photographers were received.

A proposition to hold social conferences at the residences of members for purposes of instruction in political rights was agreed to, and the meeting adjourned to January 8.

There are at present thirteen prisoners in the Tombs charged with murder, of whom four are women.

Mrs. Julia Crogan died yesterday morning at No. 446 West Twenty-eighth street from the effects of brutal treatment received at the hands of her drunken husband, who was infuriated because a few days ago she gave birth to a still-born child. He is in arrest and is still drunk.

At a meeting of the Brooklyn Board of Aldermen last evening resolutions were adopted subscribing the sum of \$3,000,000 to the New York East River Bridge Company, for the purpose of constructing a bridge across the river.

The Hamburg-American Packet Company's steamship Cimbrina, Captain Haack, will leave Hoboken at two o'clock P. M. to-day for Southampton and Hamburg. The European mails will close at the Post Office at twelve o'clock M.

Yesterday was a day of great excitement on the Stock Exchange in consequence of the announcement of a dividend in New York Central. The stock, which closed Saturday night at 133 1/2 a 134, opened yesterday morning at 135, sold down to 146 1/2, but subsequently rallied and closed at 154 1/2 a 154 1/2. It is reported that an injunction was issued by Judge Barnard to restrain the delivery of the scrip portion of the dividend. The rest of the stock market was buoyant, in sympathy with Central, Pacific Mail and Rock Island showing a considerable advance. Gold opened at 134 1/2, sold up to 135 1/2, and closed at 135 1/2.

With fair offerings, being about 2,700 head, and a fair demand, chiefly for good stock, the market for beef cattle yesterday was quite steady. Prime and extra steers were quoted at 17c, a 20c, the latter at a premium; fair to good at 15 1/2c, a 16 1/2c, and inferior to ordinary at 12c, a 13c. Milch cows were quiet, but unchanged in value. We quote—Extra, \$100 a \$125; prime, \$90 a \$95; fair to good, \$75 a \$85, and inferior to common, \$40 a \$70. Veal calves were steady at 12c, a 13c, for prime and extra and 9c, a 11 1/2c, for inferior to good. Sheep were in fair supply, and the demand being light prices were generally heavy. We quote—Extra, 8c, a 9 1/2c; prime, 7c, a 7 1/2c; common to good, 5 1/2c, a 6 1/2c, and inferior, 4 1/2c, a 5 1/2c. For swine the market was dull but firm at 9 1/2c, a 9 3/4c, for common to prime.

Personal Intelligence.

General C. M. Dodge, of Iowa; General Thomas Carney, of Kansas, and T. W. Park, of Vermont, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

General Jacob Stanwood, of Alabama; W. H. Stewart, of Washington, and S. G. Cabell, of Florida, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Colonel A. G. Warren, Major W. H. Dalton, and Major Russell, of the United States Army, and General J. V. Galloway, of Illinois, are at the St. Charles Hotel.

Colonel M. de Mera, of Cuba, and L. M. Blakely, of Lyons, are at the St. Julien Hotel.

W. B. Reed, of Philadelphia, is at the New York Hotel.

Colonel J. F. Marsh, of Minnesota; Colonel F. G. Noyes, of Massachusetts; General C. B. Stewart, of New York; O. Ames, of Massachusetts, and H. H. Hathorn, of Saratoga, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Senator A. G. Cattell, of New Jersey; Colonel Henry W. James, of the United States Army; Colonel Hildt, of West Point, and W. Watson, of Liverpool, England, are at the Hoffman House.

General Clary, of the United States Army, is at the Astor House.

Russia and the Eastern Question.

The war cloud is becoming less ominous in the East. Turkey is cautious, though firm and unbending. Greece is becoming less boisterous and more disposed to listen to the voice of reason. The one important fact which to us is full of suggestion is that the whole of Europe is agitated on the subject. It was never more apparent than now that the sore place on the European body politic is in the East. Touch it, and Europe trembles. France and England especially are put to their wits' end. Austria knows not what to do. Prussia always looks on fearlessly of consequences. Russia, no matter how much she may be supposed to be engrossed with her own affairs or how earnestly her eyes may be turned towards Asia, immediately looms up as the great bugbear of the Western nations.

For a few days it did seem as if the Eastern question were revived in all its fulness. Events created the prospect of another Crimean war. We all remember out of how little that war arose. Some trifling questions about the holy places in Jerusalem; some explanations, in which Franks and Greeks and Moslems were equally engaged and equally concerned; growing boldness on the part of Russia; resistance on the part of Turkey and her friends; the crossing of the Pruth, and then the Crimean war, which was in many respects a big and barren bungle. Russia was compelled to yield; but nothing was settled, nothing was gained. Turkey was not made stronger or in any sense more independent. Russia was only temporarily weakened. The Christian subjects of the Porte were left as dissatisfied as ever. Since the close of the Crimean war twelve years have all but passed away, and to-day Europe finds herself in circumstances almost identical with those in which she found herself in 1854. The holy places do not occupy the same prominent position; but the holy places in 1853-4 were only part of a larger question, and the larger question remains. Russia, though not yet rich, and though to a large extent dependent on English gold, has used that gold so wisely and so well that by means of railroads she has made herself not only a dangerous neighbor to England in India, but brought her European territories within easy and convenient distance from Moscow—a city which, though tempo-

rarily shorn of its splendors, promises to become once more the chief city of the empire. Russian ambition has naturally enough revived with her improved position. Now as much—now, perhaps, more than ever—she regards herself as the inheritor of the traditions, the rights and the duties of the Eastern Roman empire. The great question in the East—no matter how much it may seem to be forgotten—is whether Christians or Mohammedans shall continue to rule on this side of the Bosphorus. The Christianity of the whole East of Europe is of the Greek Church. The millions of Russia are the most orthodox of the orthodox, and the Emperor is by universal consent the head of the Church. In Turkey in Europe there are some twelve millions of Christians and not over five millions of Mohammedans. The Christians are not unnaturally impatient of Mohammedan rule—all the more impatient because of the inequality of numbers. This impatience is kept alive by Greece on the south and Russia on the north. In fact, the common Christian sentiment which pervades Greece, Turkey in Europe, and Russia, makes the Greek Kingdom and the Christian portion of Turkey lean upon Russia as their natural protector. Russia accepts the position and champions the cause. We do not say that Russia courts war; but we do say that Russia has not retired from her high position as the champion of Christianity versus Mohammedanism in the East, and that the difficulties which make up the Eastern question are as little settled now as they were before the Crimean war broke out. The antagonism of race and the antagonism of religion are as pronounced as ever, and until race and religion cease to have a meaning the question still will remain whether twelve millions of Christians should be ruled by four or five millions of Mohammedans. It may be unjust to compare the Mohammedans to the negroes; but, without wishing to be unjust, and only desiring to bring the question home, the question of the East—that is, limiting the case to Turkey in Europe—is very much the question we have to settle in the South. Shall four millions or shall eight millions rule? It is not to be denied that our difficulty will be more easily solved than the difficulty which threatens the existence of the Turkish empire. The way to the end with us is more simple; but to some minds the comparison may be useful.

It will not be wonderful if war is again started off. Russia is not yet prepared to precipitate matters. The Western Powers, especially France and England, have strong reasons to seek the preservation of the Turkish empire in all its integrity. There are arrangements which might be made, but the possibilities are so numerous and so dangerous that any new arrangement is dreaded. Every Power is fearful of every other. Neither France nor England, nor Austria nor Italy nor Spain nor Portugal can entertain the idea of Russia enthroned in Constantinople. A Greek empire including the islands and running north as far as the Balkan is a possibility of the future; but the time for such an arrangement has not yet come. A Hungarian empire, including the Herzegovina, Bosnia, Servia, Bulgaria, Wallachia, and implying the mastery of the mouths of the Danube, is another possibility; but the time for this is as remote as the other. The one thing which the Western Powers dread above all others is to see Russia mistress of the Dardanelles, and thus a powerful and dangerous rival to them in the Mediterranean. Besides, the breaking up of the Turkish empire would bring France and England into collision with regard to Egypt. Both have interests at stake in that ancient seat of empire—a country long in the background, but destined yet to revive and reveal somewhat of its former glory. But neither France nor England is in a position to yield to the other. We are disposed, therefore, on the whole, to take it for granted that in some way peace will be patched up and that the "sick man" will be the object of European attention and sympathy for another generation. We live, however, in the age of steam, electricity and the newspaper, and therefore give our words with a caution. We may be right; we may be wrong. Time will reveal whether the one or the other.

Mayor Hoffman Declines the Honor.

Mr. Hoffman has very neatly excused himself to a party of gentlemen who wanted to take him to Albany with a brass band and blue ribbons, as the prize cattle sometimes come to market. He has done well. We applaud his taste, his sense of propriety, his notion of economy, his modesty, his good manners, and even his note. Moreover, we resolutely refuse to listen to those censorious and thoroughly ill-natured people who hint that the whole occasion was made in order that the Governor might spread himself before the people in a pretty little piece of popular economy—in short, that he was invited in order that he might decline. As some people "give up" conundrums at once, and on principle, so we refuse to go into this devious inquiry, and accept a man as meaning plainly what he says. Governor Hoffman, then, we hold as declaring himself for economy, the public interest and a due regard to the proprieties of his position, and we hope he may stick to this platform. He has a chance before him to do good in the State, and even in the country, by setting that wholesome example on these points that men might naturally expect from the Executive of the greatest State in the Union. He knows the lobbyists and ringmakers well; the lobby, too, of this great city, which is, in acuteness, courage and extravagance of thought, several paces ahead of those lobbies of the rural districts that flourish in Albany and Washington; and with this knowledge he may do good in "big things," as he has just indicated a readiness to do in small ones. He starts with a good promise. We shall watch for the result.

STATE STOCKS AND SECURITIES.—It is a curious fact that while the securities of many of the States, including even those of the lately reconstructed Southern States, have been improving in price in the stock market recently, government bonds have shown a decline and a weak tendency. This popular impeachment of the Congressional wisecracks who are tinkering with the national credit should teach them a lesson. It is a sign that the people have more faith in the wisdom of their local Legislatures than in the financial sagacity of the national Congress.

The Rise in New York Central.

The somewhat equanimity of Wall street was rather rudely disturbed yesterday by a sudden advance of thirty per cent in New York Central Railway shares. Bulls and bears were going to sleep under the prosy speeches in Congress and dull debates upon the financial muddle, when the directors of the Central let off a bombshell in their midst by declaring a scrip dividend of eighty per cent and a semi-annual dividend of four per cent on both scrip and capital stock. This remarkable action of the directors was not wholly unexpected; but the operators in the street had been so often deceived that the story of a dividend became, like the cry of "wolf," unheeded at the proper moment. This same story was the lever with which New York Central had been alternately forced up and down, as it suited the plans of those in the secret. About a month ago, in anticipation of the annual meeting and further rumors of a dividend, the stock went up to 134. The public were so convinced that it was "all right" this time that they invested heavily—more so than the Central clique wished. Of course it became necessary to make the afore-said public disgorge again, and the injunction business was decided upon, whereupon the afflicted outsiders threw their stock upon the market, and the clique bought in all the way from 124 to 127, which they did all the more easily as the annual meeting passed without any action on the subject of a dividend.

At a private meeting on Saturday the directors decided to declare the regular and scrip dividends referred to. The price the same afternoon advanced to 134 under the effect of large purchases by the combination. Their action was made known by advertisements sent to the papers on Sunday night. Yesterday morning the stock opened at 163, and, under its gradual redistribution to the market, sold down to 150. The issue of the scrip is a virtual watering of the stock, such as recently took place in Hudson River, and has been done in nearly every railway stock. When the present excitement is over Central will settle back to a figure below that from which it started under the impetus of the dividend. The new scrip is to share in future dividends equally with the original stock. Future earnings must, therefore, be divided on a capital represented by the unit 180, instead of the previous unit of 100. The generosity of the directors in thus donating themselves and the stockholders in general such a nice little sum as the scrip represents should not be forgotten when the application for the privilege of increasing the rate of fare, which has been denied for three winters, is renewed at the next session of the Legislature.

New Phase of the Cuba Movement.

Intelligence from the seat of the revolution in Cuba comes slowly and is of little import. It evidently hangs fire among the Cubans of the Western department, who seem to remain perfectly quiet, while their countrymen of the eastern portion of the island have driven the Spanish garrisons to the protection of the guns of the navy along the coast. This is a very different state of things from what was promised by the Cuban juntas of the old filibuster times, when we were always assured that the whole country would rise as one man on the first appearance of assistance. It is a curious fact that at the same time when the people of Western Cuba show so little interest in the revolutionary efforts in the island there is a remarkable absence of any expression of desire among Cubans for annexation to the United States, and very little interest is expressed by the organs of public opinion in this country in the movements in Cuba. The only parties here who take a deep interest in the affair are the propagandists of the Wendell Phillips school.

There is a logical reason for this fact, and it is this—The revolutionists threaten to liberate the slaves in the island, if they cannot succeed in any other way in driving out the Spanish forces. Such a step would be tantamount to the destruction of all industry in Cuba; for this is based on the slave labor, and would be attended with the sudden disappearance of present wealth. The example of ruin presented by our Southern States has taught the Cubans a deep lesson, and one which they evidently have no wish to feel practically. In this country the entire destruction of the great interests which were based on slavery leaves the Cubans no allies here, and hence the absence of all movement of a filibuster character. We shall not be surprised to see a large Spanish party spring up among the native Cubans in Havana when General Dulce arrives there, and an early termination put to the revolutionary movement.

New Lines of Southern Railroads.

Our Southern exchanges nearly every day contain reports of a new line of railroad or branch railroad to be established in some portion of that section of the country. Taking these reports at a venture, it seems that there are now agitated in North and Central Mississippi—one of the three States tabooed by the radicals—no less than six new railroad routes—namely, the Memphis and Selma, the Mississippi Valley, the Granada and Yazoo, Granada and Eastern, Granada and Meridian, and the Kosciusko and Corinth. This number of proposed new railroad lines in an ostracized State shows that there must be a wondrous amount of hidden resources within its limits, and that the proper mode of developing them is appreciated by Northern capitalists. A valuable road will be the proposed Gulf line, from New Orleans to Mobile, thence northwesterly to Chattanooga, the latter place being a sort of common centre for railroad travel between the North and the South, as it was the key with which General Sherman was enabled to unlock the rocky gates of the Southern country and spread before his army an easy pathway to the sea. The Virginia and Tennessee road runs through a fertile district of country, and aims at the possession of a fair share of traffic and travel from Memphis, on the Mississippi, to the Atlantic seaboard, Norfolk being its principal Atlantic port. The Western North Carolina road is of considerable importance, as it is romantically asserted that when completed "the seaboard will kiss the blue capped mountains of the grand West—the Switzerland of America—teeming with her minerals, water power and agricultural resources." As an evidence of the value of some of these Southern roads, it appears that the Georgia Central has just purchased from the city of Savannah all

the stock of the latter, amounting to one million and a half, in the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad. This gives the Central a monopoly of the trade from Macon to Savannah, affording to that port increased facilities in obtaining cotton and other freights for its European shipping.

Thus we find in the most important parts of the Southern country the existence of an enterprising spirit of progress in accordance with the advancement of the age in all that relates to commercial greatness. What the South must do is to encourage immigration. Fill the land with the industrious populations of Europe, keep the niggers at work, keep going ahead, and it will be but a short time before the men of the Southern clime will again rejoice in bounteous opulence and unrestrained political freedom.

The Suez Ship Canal.

The interesting accounts we have published of the progress of the Suez Canal show that this greatest engineering work of history is to be a success. The subject was first suggested by Ferdinand de Lesseps, and it is only since 1854-5 that the first surveys were made to test its practicability. At that date the foremost engineers of the world were consulted as to the feasibility of the gigantic work. The best English engineers, headed by George Stevenson, condemned it as a chimerical scheme; but France, feeling that there was more of national jealousy than engineering judgment in the decision, and being advised by her most scientific men that it was possible, boldly launched out her capital, and now sees success crowning her efforts. The amount thus far invested in the work is eighty millions of dollars in gold; but it will probably require an additional expenditure of forty millions more before the work is thoroughly completed so that a ship drawing twenty-five feet of water can pass from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea. Vessels of light draught already pass it. As yet, however, it cannot compete with the English railway from Alexandria to Suez, two hundred and fifty-two miles in length.

The great work once completed it will give a new avenue to European commerce and force the Old World trade almost back again in the direction it took before Vasco da Gama opened the route via the Cape of Good Hope. The Mediterranean nations have a wonderful interest in its completion. It is essentially a work for the advancement of Latin against Anglo-Saxon interests, and the brain that has forced French capital to this task so views it. Science will have another chance for commercial greatness; and Italy, past whose doors will pour a vast Indian trade, will not be slow to reap from the harvest and make herself again felt as a great nation. The Suez Canal will do more to build up and strengthen Latin Europe than all the wars and all the diplomacy that have been expended in the past hundred years. French statesmen, wisely seeing it, will force the work through despite cost or opposition. It will do their nation more honor than any victory at arms they have even won, and will be in keeping with the great animating idea of France—the building up and consolidation of Latin interests all over the world.

There is, however, a limit to this Old World development. This lies in the destiny of the Western Continent. They do all they can with what they possess, but it is impossible for them to change the geography of the world, however much they may break down topographical barriers and turn trade channels. As an offset to Suez we have Panama, which fortune appears to have conceded to the New World. The Suez Canal will do an enormous trade for the whole of Europe, including Germany and Great Britain, until the completion of a canal across the Isthmus of Darien. Then the Suez route will belong essentially to Southern Europe, while its whole Atlantic coast will turn westward for its commerce with India, simply because it will be a cheaper, safer and more expeditious route to Eastern Asia. Notwithstanding this, we believe that the Suez enterprise is one worthy of the age and of modern civilization. It must and will accomplish a vast commerce. France in completing it, not alone compliments modern civilization, but confers an honor upon herself and upon all the nations of the world.

Mr. Van Wyck's Whitewashing Report.

The Congressional Committee on Retrenchment, as it is called, of which Mr. Van Wyck is chairman, has made a most extraordinary report relative to the whiskey frauds. In fact, it is not a report at all on these frauds, but a tirade of abuse of the President and the other officers of the government who endeavored to probe the rascality of the internal revenue thieves. It is neither more nor less than a lame attempt to whitewash the friends of the internal revenue officials, and to throw dust in the eyes of the people by abusing the President, Binckley and others. The internal revenue service in this State is filled with a little army of the Van Wyck family; and this may account for the character of the report. Nothing more unsatisfactory—we were about to say infamous—ever emanated from a Congressional investigating committee, and it shows to what a pitch of degradation our national representatives have fallen. It is notorious that whiskey and other frauds, to the amount of tens of millions of dollars, have been and are being committed in this city and neighborhood upon the internal revenue, and that by the connivance of officers in that service; yet this committee failed to discover any of them or to find a single delinquent official. Further comment is unnecessary. The report speaks for itself.

CONGRESS—A HOLIDAY RECESS.—The two houses of Congress yesterday adjourned over to the 5th day of January, the members generally having thought it most expedient and most agreeable to spend the Christmas and New Year holidays among their constituents. Thus far the Senate and the House have appeared to be all in the dark in reference to the public business before them and ignorant where to begin to legislate or what to do upon any of the great questions of the day. It is to be hoped that after a fortnight's intercourse with the people the Senators and Representatives of the United States will return to Washington somewhat enlightened in reference to the public necessities of the day (especially in the matter of the whiskey ring) and ready for active work of a practical character. And so we wish them all "a merry Christmas and a happy new year."

Jobbery in Municipal Organizations.

Any one who sees the vast array of figures jotted down as the annual expenditure in dollars and cents of the municipal government of New York city, and who, happily for his peace of mind, is in a state of ignorance as to the mode and circumstances under which these large sums are appropriated, cannot avoid some mental inquiry and cogitation as to the men by whom these funds are so munificently disbursed and the necessity for such enormous outlays. The city is taxed at present to the extent, in round numbers, of about twenty-four millions of dollars, which, added to the ordinary revenues of the city government, makes a total annual expenditure of thirty millions. This revenue has increased about one-third during the last five years and nearly doubled itself since the year 1860. We have a "city government" which exercises about one-half the powers usually conferred upon municipal corporations, and the remainder of the administrative powers are vested in some half dozen commissions and boards. These were created under the shelter of the cry of "corruption," and were ostensibly intended to act as brakes upon the wheel of extravagance and fraud. The population of New York city has not increased one-fifth during these eight years of advancing taxation, but the revenue has magnified itself nearly one hundred per cent, and as yet, despite the fact that we have had almost four years of peace in which to reduce the inflated scale of taxation inaugurated during the war, there are no indications of relief. These raw facts must necessarily lead to the conclusion that our present system of administration of the affairs of New York city is a decided failure, so far as the welfare of the public is concerned, and render "confusion worse confounded" as to the suggestion of a remedy. We have the two distinctive forms of government, consolidated and exercising a varied jurisdiction, as in the Common Council, and local or special, as in the police and other commissions.

All these departments have their "regular" sessions, and enjoy, also, the privilege of calling special meetings, which they can generally do on five minutes' notice. A call for a meeting of the Board of Aldermen or Councilmen may be issued, and a skirmish of a few minutes in the saloons and gin mills around the City Hall, it is well known and cannot be denied, in nine cases out of ten results in bringing the members together. On the 18th of February last a "regular" meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held, and an adjournment ordered at three o'clock P. M. until the next day. Some Seventh avenue property owners were present to oppose the laying of Stafford pavement on that thoroughfare, for the cost of which they were to be assessed. At six o'clock that evening a "snap" meeting of the Board was called and a resolution adopted, when none but the members were present, directing Seventh avenue, from Fourteenth street to Fifty-ninth street, to be paved with this same experimental pavement, that five minutes' session costing a few citizens in the aggregate half a million dollars. It is now being contested in the courts, but the result of the litigation, three or four men alone can foretell. This is but a single instance.

As to the commissions, they hold meetings whenever and in most cases wherever they please. The Commissioners of Police call sessions and transact their business at any hour of the day and night, at their residences if they choose, and the public are not permitted under any circumstances to attend any of these councils, excepting the trials of policemen for breach of duty or discipline. The Police Board exercises the power of appointing and expending from two and a half to three and a half millions of dollars annually. Other commissions have like extraordinary powers and similar extraordinary privileges regarding their exercise. The fact is the central government of our city, from the highest to the lowest offices, is festering with corruption and fraud, and the ostensible panacea, the local boards, is actually infected with the same plague sore. The first branch was begotten corruptly, and the second, under a false color, divides the patronage and is as corrupt as the limited power wrested from the former will permit.

Judge Underwood and a Jail Delivery.

Judge Underwood, one of the federal district judges, has recently put the United States in a decidedly untenable position before the people of the State of Virginia. He has arrayed the government against all the interests of society, against good order, the security of life and of property, and has made it the champion of all the scoundrels in their efforts to get away from justice. All this he has done on a mere legal technicality. Naturally there is a protest against this in Congress. There are some Representatives and Senators who are not so insanely lost in one idea that they care to see proper reconstruction made the cover for mere anarchy and terrorism; and these men would naturally rebuke the ignorant fanatic who has thus outraged the bench and done what is possible to show the country that, with all the clamor against the judges of this city, there are worse ones in the national courts. But the radical papers indicate their readiness to champion and sustain Underwood's decision. Their argument is that he had no option, and that the constitution itself required this villany. This view hardly puts the constitution in a favorable light before the people, and it will find few supporters beyond party lines. A judge should keep in view the object of all law. He should never forget the maxim (if he happen to know it) that the welfare of the people is the supreme law, and, viewing statutes and enactments from such a standpoint as this would give, interpret in accordance whatever clause of law is pleaded before him. He could then never unbind the whole machinery of justice on a partisan technicality.

A Bit of Old Blue Light Puritanism.

On Sunday last one of the city preachers delivered a sermon on "Our National Perils and Safety," in which he undertook to revive the old spirit of blue light Puritanism and intolerance. He administered a rebuke to General Grant for "leaving West Point on a Sabbath morning, some time since, and coming to New York, where he put up at a hotel." This is not the first time General Grant's travelling on Sunday has been objected to. The Southern rebels have had many occasions to regret his